

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: Limited
6 February 2018

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs**Sixty-first session**

Vienna, 12–16 March 2018

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of the Political Declaration and
Plan of Action on International Cooperation
towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to
Counter the World Drug Problem****Russian Federation: draft resolution****Protecting children from the illicit drug threat***The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

Reaffirming its commitment to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions, including concern about the health and welfare of humankind, as well as the individual and public health-related, social and safety problems resulting from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in particular among children, and drug-related crime,

Reaffirming also the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹ which stipulates in its article 33 that States parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances,

Recalling the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem",² in which Member States reaffirmed their determination to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity, as well as their determination to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse,

Recalling also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ in which Member States committed themselves to striving to provide children with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, including through safe schools and cohesive communities and families, and to putting an end to abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children,

* E/CN.7/2018/1.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.² General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Bearing in mind that children are our most valuable asset and should be protected,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration when taking decisions to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production of and trafficking in such substances,

Recalling its resolution 59/6 of 22 March 2016, in which it recognized that children are particularly vulnerable to individual or environmental risks related to drug abuse,

Recalling also its resolution 60/7 of 17 March 2017, in which, inter alia, it highlighted the necessity of community, family and school drug prevention programmes and strategies addressing the needs of children,

Noting with deep concern the increasingly young age of children with substance use disorders in some countries,

Expressing grave concern at the increasing number of incidents of accidental cannabis ingestion or intoxication among children caused by the proliferation of concentrated cannabis extract and cannabis-infused edibles in licit markets, as stated in the *World Drug Report 2016*,⁴

Gravely concerned that an increasing number of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are distributed via the Internet, which makes them easily accessible to children,

Noting that while information and communications technology can play a positive role in children's education, development and awareness-raising, it can also be misused to disseminate harmful information on drugs among children and facilitate their access to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which threatens their life and physical and mental health,

Seriously alarmed about the fact that children continue to be actively involved, used and exploited in the illicit cultivation of crops, the production and manufacturing of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and other drug-related crimes in various regions of the world and that such illicit activities are likely to be hazardous, to interfere with their education or to be harmful to their health and physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development,

1. *Recognizes* that an environment free of drug abuse and trafficking is conducive to the development and well-being of children and is therefore in the best interest of the child;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to make the best use of existing international legal instruments to protect children from drug abuse and trafficking and to take all measures to ensure that national and international drug control strategies are developed and implemented in the best interest of the child;

3. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board to further explore how the current international legal drug control framework could be used more efficiently to serve the best interest of the child, protect children from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and prevent the involvement, use and exploitation of children in the illicit cultivation of crops, production and manufacturing of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and other forms of drug-related crime;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to take effective and practical primary prevention measures that protect children from drug use initiation by providing them with accurate information about the risks of drug abuse, by promoting skills and opportunities to choose healthy lifestyles and develop supporting parenting and

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.XI.7.

healthy social environments, and by ensuring equal access to education and vocational training;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to collect and analyse data and to support further research into the scope of drug abuse among children and the involvement, use and exploitation of children in the illicit cultivation of crops, production and manufacturing of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and other forms of drug-related crime;

6. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States, upon their request, in developing effective national, regional and international strategies to protect children from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to prevent the involvement, use and exploitation of children in the illicit cultivation of crops, production and manufacturing of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and other forms of drug-related crime, in order to ensure that the rights of the child are promoted and protected;

7. *Invites* Member States to share best practices in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of strategies to protect children from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to prevent the involvement, use and exploitation of children in the illicit cultivation of crops, production and manufacturing of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and other forms of drug-related crime, and invites the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in this regard;

8. *Urges* Member States to take vigorous measures against the proliferation of concentrated cannabis extract and cannabis-infused edibles among children;

9. *Recommends* that Member States expand the range of measures against marketing technologies used to encourage and promote drug abuse, such as the use of the Internet and social media, in order to keep narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances away from children;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to support measures on the use of the Internet for prevention purposes, including appropriate counselling and the provision of information, to develop, implement and promote, in accordance with national legislation, prevention strategies, programmes and measures, including via social media and other social networks, aimed at, inter alia, protecting children from abuse of controlled substances and new psychoactive substances and from involvement in their illicit sale and purchase via the Internet, and to enhance cooperation at all levels in that regard;

11. *Urges* Member States to take more decisive action to bring to justice those responsible for the involvement, use and exploitation of children in the illicit cultivation of crops, production and manufacturing of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and other forms of drug-related crime, and to impose penalties, in accordance with national legislation, that are proportional to the gravity of the offence and effectively dissuasive;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission within the existing reporting obligations on the implementation of the present resolution at its sixty-second session;

13. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.